

Appl. No. : 09/929,918
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 12 as follows:

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the gene for human acidic fibroblast growth factor encodes the 155 amino acid form of the aFGF protein and is chemically synthesized (SEQ ID NO: 1). The nucleotide sequence of the haFGF 155 gene has been deduced on the basis of the previously described haFGF 155 amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2). The amino acid sequence of the synthesized haFGF155 gene does not differ from those previously described such as the translated sequence of the FGF nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3. However, the preferred nucleotide sequence of haFGF gene differs from those previously described. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the haFGF 155 gene has been chemically synthesized using the codons which are most often used by *E. coli* for intensively synthesized bacterial proteins. Codon usage tables for *E. coli* are well known and available. ~~See, for example, <http://psyche.uthct.edu/shaun/Sblack/codonuse.html>.~~ Chemical synthesis of human aFGF genes was carried out by well known methods (Edge et al. (1983) Nucleic Acids Research 11 (18): 6419-6435).